

In the Specification

Please amend the "Cross-Reference to Related Applications" paragraph appearing at page 1, lines 6-14, as follows:

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

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This application is related to U.S. Application No. 09/745,374 entitled "System and Method for Migrating Data in an Electronic Commerce System," which was filed on December 22, 2000 by Noel Tenorio, Attorney's Docket 020431.0751; U.S. Application No. 09/745,980 entitled "System and Method for Selective Database Indexing," which was filed on December 22, 2000 by Noel Tenorio, et al., Attorney's Docket 020431.0752; and U.S. Application No. 09/746,120 entitled "System and Method for Identifying a Product," which was filed on December 22, 2000 by Mohanasundaram Chinnappan, et al., Attorney's Docket 020431.0754."

Please amend the paragraph appearing at page 7, lines 2-15, as follows:

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FIGURE 1 illustrates an exemplary electronic commerce ("e-commerce") system 10 that includes a network 12 coupling buyers 20 (identified as buyers 20a-n), sellers 30 (identified as sellers 30a-n), and a global content directory (GCD) server 40. System 10 enables electronic commerce ("e-commerce") transactions between buyers 20 and sellers 30 through the use of a GCD 42 supported by GCD server 40. Network 12 may include any appropriate combination of public and private networks coupling buyers 20, sellers 30, and GCD server 40. In an exemplary embodiment, network 12 includes the Internet and any appropriate local area networks or wide area networks coupling buyers 20, sellers 30, and GCD server 40 to the Internet. Since the Internet is accessible to the vast majority of buyers and sellers in the world, the present invention potentially includes all of these buyers and sellers as buyers 20 and sellers 30 of system 10. However, the use of the term "global" should not be interpreted as a geographic limitation necessarily requiring that GCD 42 provide directory services to buyers 20 and sellers 30 around the world or that the content of GCD 42 be from all over the world.

Please amend the paragraph appearing at page 7, lines 4-15, as follows:

A3 The first three steps above may be grouped into what may be referred to as the "discovery" phase of a transaction. In the discovery phase of many typical e-commerce transactions, a buyer 20 performs a search for a number of sellers 30 that offer a desired product and then accesses numerous seller web sites to determine which seller 30 offers certain desired features of the product at the best price. Sellers 30 may each provide one or more databases 32 (identified as databases 32a-n), such as relational databases, that include data identifying the seller's products and their features. Such databases 32 may be accessed through each seller's web site or in any other appropriate manner. The multiple one-to-one (one buyer 20 to one seller 30) searches that this process requires are inefficient and expensive because of the large amount of searching involved in finding a product and because once a particular product is found, the various offerings of that product by different sellers may not be easily compared.

Please amend the paragraph appearing at page 12, line 25 through page 13, line 9, as follows:

A4 Although exemplary directory 44 may use industry standard schemas 46 as described above, any other appropriate number of schemas 62 may be used in addition to or instead of industry standard schemas 46. For example, while industry standard schemas 46 may be organized from a manufacturer's viewpoint, other schemas 62 may be used that organize products from a buyer's viewpoint. For example, a buyer 20 may wish to furnish a kitchen of a new house with various products, such as appliances, window treatments, paint, cabinetry, plumbing, dishes, and cooking utensils. Using one set of schemas 62, these products may be organized into a variety of unrelated classes based on certain features of the products (for example, certain kitchen appliances may be categorized in an electronics class 52 64 of directory structure 44 while paint may be categorized into an industrial class 52 66). However, another exemplary set of schemas 62 may categorize all such products into a home products class (which may include several classes further categorizing

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the products, such as a kitchen products class which includes a kitchen appliances class, which includes a refrigerator class, and so on). Therefore, the same product may be included in multiple schemas 62. These alternative schemas may be included in directory structure 44 and may be stored as a part of or separate from GCD 42.

Please amend the paragraph appearing at page 18, line 26 through page 19, line 10, as follows:

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Based on the search terms provided by buyer (and possibly based on any appropriate attributes of the class from which the search is conducted), search interface 45 may communicate a query to the appropriate seller database(s) 32 requesting that databases 32 each return a listing of all products (including associated product data) that meet the search criteria. Databases 32 may also communicate product data relating to features of the matching products that were not included in the search criteria. For example, databases 32 may return a price and availability of a product that meets the search criteria even if the price and availability were not search criteria. The responses to the queries of databases 32 may be displayed to buyer 20 in any appropriate manner. For example, the products may be listed in order of relevance to the search criteria according to improved matching criteria as described in copending U.S. Application No. 09/742,851 filed ~~December 20, 2000~~ (Attorney's Docket 020431.0749). Any other appropriate method of determining relevance may alternatively be used. Furthermore, GCD 42 may reorder the product listing based on a request from buyer 20. For example, buyer 20 may request that the matching products be listed in order from least expensive to most expensive. Each product in listing may be associated with a GUID 100 and/or an RID.

Please amend the paragraph appearing at page 22, line 23 through page 23, line 6, as follows:

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GCD 42 may use any appropriate technique for predicting future requests of buyers 20 for product data based on the request history of buyers 20. Any other suitable information about buyers 20 may also be used to predict future requests by

Ab buyers 20 and such predictions may be updated as GCD 42 obtains additional information. GCD 42 may use any appropriate caching or other data storage technique to direct the migration of product data to one or more network nodes. These network nodes may include a network device associated with any buyer 20 or seller 30, a network device used solely for the purpose of caching or otherwise storing migrated data, or any other device coupled to a network accessible by a buyer 20 wanting to access the migrated data. For example, a selected amount of data storage space associated with numerous buyers 20 and sellers 30 may be allocated for GCD 42 to use as needed for caching space (possibly as a requirement to register with GCD 42). Therefore, as an example, product data associated with seller 30a and requested by buyer ~~30a~~ 20a may be cached at seller 30b or at buyer ~~30b~~ 20b. As another example, product data that is frequently accessed by buyer 20a may be cached at buyer 20a (and such cached product data may be located inside a firewall of buyer 20a).

Please amend the paragraph appearing at page 25, lines 15-31, as follows:

A7 FIGURE 5 illustrates an exemplary table 150 that may be included in a seller database 32. Database 32 may include one or more tables 150 and each table 150 may contain product data relating to one or more types of products. For example, exemplary table 150 includes product data relating to different types of pens. However, table 150 could also include product data for other types of products (for example, other types of office supplies) or this product data may be contained in other tables 150 in database 32. Table 150 includes a plurality of columns 152 (identified as columns 152a-n) that each include data relating to a particular product feature. Although an exemplary number of columns 152 including exemplary product features are illustrated, it should be understood that any appropriate number and type of product features or other categories of data may be included in table 150. Table 150 also includes a number of rows 154 that may each correspond to a particular product (and an associated PID) and that each include data values for one or more of the product features. Each of the data values (which may be numeric, textual, or in any other appropriate format) is located at the intersection of the row 154 associated with

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a particular product and the column 152 that includes a particular product feature.
Each of these intersections may be referred to as a field or cell 156 of table 150.
